

Child Safety Commission of Inquiry



Josef's story

Disclaimer: *This is the story of a person who shared their personal experience with the Commission of Inquiry through a submission or interview. The names in this story are pseudonyms and identifying details have been removed. The person who shared this experience may not have been a witness and their account is not evidence. They did not take an oath or affirmation before providing the story.*

Nothing in this story constitutes a finding of fact by the Commission of Inquiry. Instead, these stories have been published to show how people are experiencing the current child safety system in Queensland. Any views expressed are those of the person who shared their experience, not of the Commission of Inquiry.

Content warning: *Some material may be distressing. These statements may include references to violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, suicide, or self-harming behaviours, and may contain strong or confronting language. Some narratives may be about First Nations people who have passed away. Readers are encouraged to engage with this material in a way that supports their wellbeing.*

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I have worked with families that are involved with Child Safety Services in Queensland since about 2005. Just after the formation of the now Department of Child Safety from Department of Families.

Still today, I have clients experiencing Racism, discrimination due to their impairments, discrimination due to their single parent status and personal clashes resulting in poor decisions being made against them.

I do believe that the time has come to say "WE CANT FIX THIS" Instead of, how do we fix this mess? I propose that we look at a stakeholder driven model. Similar to the same model developed from the Kennedy Commission of Inquiry into Qld Prisons in 1988. Key Stakeholder involvement saw recidivism reduce significantly to levels never seen before.

The same can happen to the families and children engaged with The Department of Child Safety. Select a Board of Commissioners rewrite the operational model and actually meet the legislative goals.

There needs to be a much better and transparent complaint handling model and process than currently applies.

I propose that the Family and Children's Commissioners Office or the Qld Ombudsman's Office to have oversight and review of all complaints made in relation to services and engagement with the Dept and its staff, its contractors and allied services such as education and health when those engagements impact upon families whilst engaged under the Statutory provisions of the Department of Child Safety.

Far too many people are derided and abused for making complaints. Many more have no outcomes provided and no means of redress. This is particularly concerning when there are allegations of malfeasance in decisions and impact upon families.

There is no transparency under the current system. The Department deals with our most precious resource, our children, and their families.